

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12741 050712Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

DRC-01 /161 W

----- 031649

R 050625Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7698

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12741

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BM

SUBJ: INDIA-BURMA RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 9953

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF EMBASSY AIRGRAM ON
INDIA-BURMA RELATIONS. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT THEY ARE NOTHING
TO WRITE HOME ABOUT. END SUMMARY.

1. BURMA IMPINGES ON INDIA'S CONSCIOUSNESS AND WORLD VIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12741 050712Z

SCARCELY AT ALL. IT IS BEYOND THE SUBCONTINENT WHERE INDIA

HAS CLEAR INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES. RELATIONS ARE NOT BAD, BUT THEY HAVE LITTLE SUBSTANCE. INTERCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND GOODS IS MINIMAL, THE BORDER IS REMOTE AND INHOSPITABLE, AND THE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING PROBLEM OF THE INDIANS IN BURMA AND THEIR ASSETS HAS INTENTIONAL BEEN KEPT SUBDUED BY INDIA.

2. INDIA IS BASICALLY SATISFIED WITH BURMA'S INVOLVED EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ITS INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE. IT FEELS NO GREAT THREAT FROM CHINA VIA BURMA AS LONG AS CHINA GIVES ONLY LIMITED SUPPORT TO INSURGENTS IN THE PORTIONS OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH BORDERING BURMA. IT RECOGNIZES BURMA'S SMALL CAPACITY FOR MILITARY COOPERATION WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH AGAINST THESE INSURGENTS GIVEN THE TERRAIN AND BURMA'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THE WHITE FLAG COMMUNISTS.

3. INDIA DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE FOCUSED ON THE HEIGHTENED THREAT TO BURMA IMPLICIT IN THE HEAVY FIGHTING NOW UNDERWAY WITH THE WHITE FLAT COMMUNISTS (RANGOON 2472). IF BURMA LOSES CONTROL OF THE NORTHERN PORTION OF ITS COUNTRY OR IF THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY GETS A SHARE OF THE POWER IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, CHINA WOULD OBTAIN A POLITICALLY EASIER ROUTE TO HELP THE NEGA AND MIZO REBELS IN INDIA. MORE IMPORTANTLY, INDIA COULD INTERPRET SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL OR INFLUENCE AS EVIDENCE OF A CHINESE "FORWARD POLICY" IN A BORDER AREA. DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT AT THE TIME AND THE DEGREE OF BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL OR INFLUENCE, THIS WOULD TEND TO MOVE INDIA CLOSER TO THE SOVIET UNION. IT WOULD ENCOURAGE HAWKS AND DISCOURAGE THOSE IN INDIA SUPPORTING DETENTE WITH PAKISTAN.

4. INDIA SEES BURMA AS WARY OF THE SHEER SIZE AND POLITICAL WEIGHT OF INDIA, AS HARBORING RESENTMENT OVER THE FORMER ROLE OF INDIANS IN BURMA, AND AS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CHINESE DISPLEASURE AT CLOSER INDIA-BURMA TIES. INDIAN INTEREST IN BURMA IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR IT TO TRY TO COUNTERACT THESE FEARS, SENSITIVITIES AND CONCERNS.

5. INDIA WAS PLEASED BY THE EARLY BURMESE RECOGNITION OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12741 050712Z

BANGLADESH. MORE RECENTLY, IT HAS OBSERVED A GENERAL OPENING UP BY BURMA AND HAS INITIATED SOME MOVES TO DEVELOP MORE SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONS. THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WENT TO RANGOON IN APRIL AND A BURMESE TEAM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS CAME TO INDIA SUBSEQUENTLY TO STUDY POSSIBLE INDIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PILOT PROJECTS. INDIA WOULD LIKE CLOSER TIES, BEGINNING WITH THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP, AND IT IS PREPARED TO OFFER SOME ASSISTANCE. BUT BURMA IS A VERY LOW PRIORITY, AND INDIA

ISNT PUSHING.
MOYNIHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE12741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC ALTERED
Executive Order: GS MOYNIHAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731155/aaaabnzp.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 9953
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA-BURMA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005